

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 1-21, drawn to a method of manufacturing a starch-based pigment or filler;

Group II, claims 22-24, drawn to a starch-based pigment or filler product comprising spherical starch derivative particles;

Group III, claims 25-29, drawn to a starch-based pigment or filler product comprising a nanoporous, coral-like material; and

Group IV, claim 30, drawn to the use of a pigment or a filler product.

**For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-21. The requirement is traversed because (1) there are overlapping technical features between the four groups of claims (e.g., claim 24 depends on claim 1) and (2) there would be no undue burden on the Examiner to examine the four groups of claims.**


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Toyohiko Konno, Registration No. L0053 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

- ☒ Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.
- ☒ Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: **SEP 21 2009**

Respectfully submitted,

By   
✓ Gerald M. Murphy, Jr.  
Registration No.: 28,977  
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP  
8110 Gatehouse Road  
Suite 100 East  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000  
Attorney for Applicant